



# Historical Commission

## TUCSON-PIMA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 12:00 noon

via Microsoft Teams

### Minutes



#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Majewski at 12:01 p.m. Those present and absent were:

##### Members Present:

- Alyce Sadongei – Departed the meeting at 1:38 p.m.
- Carlos Lozano
- Carol Griffith
- Geoffrey Ellwand – Arrived at 12:06 p.m.
- Helen Erickson
- Jennifer Levstik, Vice Chair
- Jan Mulder
- J. J. Lamb
- Joel Ireland – Departed the meeting at 1:51 p.m.
- Kathe Kubish
- Peter Steere
- Rikki Riojas
- Savannah McDonald – Departed the meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- Stephen Grede – Departed the meeting at 1:31 p.m.
- Terry Majewski, Chair
- Tim Hagyard

##### Members Absent:

- Sandee Brooke
- Ken Scoville

##### Staff and Others Present:

- Jodie Brown City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer
- Jorge Castillo City of Tucson Transportation and Mobility
- Koren Manning City of Tucson Planning and Development Services
- Kristina Swallow City of Tucson Planning and Development Services
- Courtney Rose Pima County Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation Division
- Scott O’Mack Pima County Transportation and Mobility
- Mark Holden Pima County Development and Planning Division
- Sarah Meggison City of Tucson Housing and Community Development
- Adrian Marinez City of Tucson Housing and Community Development
- Michael Taku City of Tucson Planning and Development Services
- Clark Bryner Tucson Electric Power Company

Teresa Bravo	Tucson Electric Power Company
Carla Inclan	City Clerk's Office
Ana Juarez	City Clerk's Office
John Burr	Guest
Barbara Montgomery	Guest

**2. Approval of TPCHC Minutes from Meeting(s) of: 12/15/23 (Discussion/Action)**

It was moved by Commissioner Rikki Riojas, duly seconded by Commissioner Helen Erickson, and carried by a roll call vote of 16 to 0 (Commissioners Brooke and Scoville absent) to approve the minutes of the meeting of 11/15/23.

**3. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events (Information Only)**

Chair Majewski welcomed Commissioner Kathe Kubish, appointed by Ward 2 Council Member, Paul Cunningham.

**4. Recently Posted Subcommittee Minutes (Information Only) (Chair Majewski)**

Report was given by Chair Majewski, Discussion was held. No action was taken.

**5. Removal/Appointments to TPCHC Subcommittees (Discussion/Action)**

No report was given.

**6. Reports from City of Tucson, Pima County, and City of South Tucson Staff (Discussion/Action)**

**A. City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office (Jodie Brown)**

Report was given by Jodie Brown. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

**B. Pima County Cultural Resources Department (Linda Mayro and Staff)**

Report was given by Courtney Rose. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

**C. City of South Tucson (Josué Licea)**

No report was given.

**D. Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility (Jorge Castillo)**

Report was given by Jorge Castillo. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

**7. TPCHC Subcommittee/Other Committee/Council/Commission Status Reports (Discussion/Action)**

**A. Plans Review Subcommittee (Jodie Brown)**

Report was given by Jodie Brown. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

B. Downtown Neighborhoods and Residents Council (Commissioner Hagyard)

Report was given by Commissioner Hagyard. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

C. Historic Landscapes Subcommittee (Commissioner Grede)

No report was given.

D. Transportation Subcommittee (Commissioner Lozano)

Report was given by Commissioner Lozano. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlos Lozano, duly seconded by Commissioner J. J. Lamb, and carried by a roll call vote of 15 to 0 (Commissioners Brooke, Ellwand, and Scoville absent) in regard to the matter of the proposed amendment to the Pima County Zoning code pertaining to transit oriented development that the TPCHC should submit comment to the [Pima County] Board of Supervisors in the form of a letter including our standard list of historic preservation best practices for transportation projects, in particular guidelines on height and setback. (Commissioner Ellwand present, muted and could not vote.)

E. Commission on Equitable Housing & Development (Commissioner McDonald)

Report was given by Commissioner McDonald. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

F. Budget Subcommittee (Chair Majewski)

No report was given.

G. Outreach and Training Subcommittee (Commissioner Ellwand Muted).

Report given by Commissioner Lamb. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

**8. Virtual, Hybrid, or In-Person Full Commission Meetings Going Forward (Discussion/Action) (Chair Majewski)**

Report was given by Chair Majewski. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

It was moved by Commissioner Rikki Riojas, duly seconded by Commissioner Helen Erickson and carried by a roll call vote of 15 to 0 (Commissioners Brooke, Ellwand, and Scoville absent) to hold TPCHC meetings in the Hybrid format, beginning with the January 2024 meeting. (Commissioner Ellwand present, muted and could not vote.)

**9. \*Potential Deconstruction of the Historic Soleri Chapel at the University of Arizona (Discussion/Action) (Commissioner Grede and Others) \***

Report was given by Commissioner Grede. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

The following was moved by Commissioner Stephen Grede, duly seconded by Commissioner Carol Griffith, and carried by a roll call vote of 15 to 0 (Commissioner McDonald recused, and Commissioners Brooke, Ellwand, and Scoville absent): That in the Tucson Pima County Historical Commission's (TPCHC) role as an advisory body and advocate for historic resources, we write a letter to Dr. Robert C. Robbins, President of the University of Arizona, and relevant administrators, emphasizing the critical importance of preserving the cultural and historical legacy that the Paolo Soleri Chapel represents to the people of Tucson, Pima County and the State of Arizona; with copies to Mayor and Council, the Board of Supervisors, and the applicable county officials. Solari Chapel is significant under National Register Criterion C as the work of a master and Criteria Consideration G -- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance. Arizona Revised Statute 41-864 emphasizes the responsibility of State entities, including the University of Arizona, to preserve historical and cultural resources, requiring careful consideration and compliance with preservation measures during alterations or relocations of significant structures. We understand that consultation with the Department of Architecture, the UA Office of Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office did not take place. It is for this reason that we are writing to urge full consideration of more appropriate options before demolishing this nationally significant historic resource. (Commissioner Ellwand present, muted and could not vote.)

**10. Update on Pima Community College–Owned Historic Motels on Drachman (Discussion/Action) (Commissioners Lozano, Scoville, Others)**

No report was given.

**11. Midtown Reliability Project (Discussion/Action) (Clark Bryner, TEP/UNS Electric Inc.).**

Presentation was given by Clark Bryner. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

Commissioner McDonald left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Grede left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

**12. City of Tucson Affordable Housing Projects (Discussion/Action) (Sarah Meggison, COT Housing & Community Development)**

Presentation was given by Sarah Meggison. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

Commissioner Sadongei left the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

**13. Plan Tucson Update (Jodie Brown and/or Koren Manning, Commissioner Erickson)**

Report was given by Commissioner Erickson and Koren Manning. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

Commissioner Ireland left the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

- 14. Update to Pima Prospers Initiative (Discussion/Action)** (Linda Mayro, Courtney Rose, Mark Holden (County Comprehensive Plan and Pima Prospers specialist)

Presentation was given by Mark Holden. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

- 15. Update and Discussion of Activities Now that City and County have Voted to Retain a Joint Commission (Discussion/Action)**

A. City of Tucson (Jodie Brown)

Report was given by Jodie Brown. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

B. Pima County (Linda Mayro and others)

Report was given by Linda Mayro. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

- 16. Study of the History of the TPCHC (Discussion/Action)** (Commissioners Erickson and Scoville)

No report was given.

- 17. Tucson's Birthplace / Tucson Origins Park Historic Landmark Status (Discussion / Action)** (Jodie Brown, Linda Mayro, Commissioner Steere and Commissioner Sadongei)

No reports were given.

- 18. Update on Archaeological Site Damage at the Border (Discussion/Action)** (Commissioner Steere)

No report was given.

- 19. Commissioners' Summary of Current Events (Information Only)**

No comments were made.

- 20. Call to the Audience (Information Only)**

No communications were received by the City Clerk's Office before the posted deadline.

- 21. Thoughts on Inclusivity (Discussion)**

No comments were made.

**22. Schedule and Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings**

Note: All agenda items for the next meeting should be emailed to the Chair by no later than December 27, 2023, to be considered for the January 10, 2024, agenda.

**23. Adjournment: 2:22 p.m.**